

Researchers identify bacterial infection as a possible cause of bladder condition

July 7 2016

Researchers identify bacterial infection as a possible cause of bladder condition

A team led by researchers at the University of Kent has identified [bacterial infection](#) as a possible cause of Overactive Bladder Syndrome (OAB).

OAB is a condition where the [bladder muscle](#) spontaneously contracts before the [bladder](#) is full. In the USA, it is ranked in the top 10 of common chronic conditions, competing with both diabetes and depression, with a reported prevalence of up to 31-42% in the adult population.

The researchers, including the Kent team from the Medway School of Pharmacy, found that some OAB patients had a low-grade [inflammation](#) which is missed by conventional NHS tests. This low-grade inflammation may ultimately result in increased sensory nerve excitation and the symptoms of OAB.

The study found that in these patients the low-grade inflammation is associated with bacteria living inside the bladder wall. This was an observational study which means that no conclusions can be drawn about cause and effect. However, the findings may prompt the clinical re-classification of OAB and inform future therapeutic strategies. These might include protracted treatment with antibiotics to alleviate the symptoms of OAB in some individuals.

More information: Alberto Contreras-Sanz et al, Altered urothelial ATP signalling in major subset of human overactive bladder patients with pyuria, *American Journal of Physiology - Renal Physiology* (2016). DOI: [10.1152/ajprenal.00339.2015](https://doi.org/10.1152/ajprenal.00339.2015)

Provided by University of Kent

Citation: Researchers identify bacterial infection as a possible cause of bladder condition (2016, July 7) retrieved 23 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2016-07-bacterial-infection-bladder-condition.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.